

Norfolk Reentry Council Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2015
Workforce Development Center
9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

Madonna Flores extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Planning Committee Update:

Madonna Flores gave an update on the 2nd Annual Reentry Community Collaborations Summit that was held on 10/26/15 @ Old Dominion University Ted Constant Center. It was very successful with 300 registered for the event.

Presentations:

Division of Education - Bryan Phillips & Timothy Donley gave an overview of Virginia's Educational & Vocational Opportunities for the Adult Offender. Career & Technical Education (CTE), College Credits, GED, & Career Readiness Certificate are some of the opportunities available for the Adult Offender. There was a PowerPoint presentation and questions were addressed about the programs. Brochures were distributed to all present.

Project Safe Neighborhood - Theresa Scales gave an overview of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Their mission is to inform youth, parents, and teachers about keeping their neighborhoods safe thru awareness of issues and laws on gangs & guns. Questions were addressed about the program.

Program Updates:

- **Child Support Enforcement** - Joy Sullivan gave an update about working with St. Brides; she talked about Access and Mediation.

DHS Programs

- **Reentry** - Garry Cofield gave an update on programs offered at NDHS. He gave an overview about the Family and Community Engagement (F.A.C.E.) services and mentoring program (6 mentors currently). The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, for Employment, and Training (SNAPET) is going well. DHS continue to provide Safe Haven Peer Support (co-ed) and the women's PEER Support (W.E.L.L.) to all returning citizens.
- **Early Prevention**- Ms. Pam Wong gave an update about Raising Safe Kids Program and the DHS Fatherhood Program that is being offered in the Norfolk City Jail.

Institutional Updates:

- **St. Brides**- Chris Walton gave an update about the Inside Out Dad Program and Ms. LeCroy who assisted with video filming. Currently working out collaborating with The Diva Program "I Want to Dance with My Dad". Timothy Donley gave an update about GED testing, CTE, and Live Works.
- **Indian Creek**- Ms. Jadelyn Hughes stated they had a Resource Fair on 11/6/15.

Probation & Parole:

- **Norfolk P&P** - Trish Miller gave an update about the collaboration with NDHS, Norfolk Sherriff Office, & Probation & Parole Thinking 4 Change program. There was 15 graduates at Norfolk City Jail. Two Honor Graduates @ Norfolk Drug Court.

Veterans:

- **VEC** serves veterans who are ex-offenders especially if they are not job ready.

Others:

- **STEP UP**- Sandra Brandt Chair of the State committee For Reentry Commission gave an update of their recommendations (40-50) Violent & Non-Violent offenses, Mental Health & Drug, Veterans, and 3 Strike Laws. Finished report was 11/19/15. Will be presented 12/4/15.
- **Right Thinking Foundation**- Steve Coplon gave an update about their Financial Literacy Program, Ready to Work Program, & Achievable Dream Program.
- **Opportunity for Change Inc.** - Ed Collum gave an overview of the services provided by their Faith Based Prison Ministry. They have 100 courses that include Job Readiness, Financial Services, Computer Classes & Online Classes. Some classes are fee based & free. All classes are provided at the Suffolk Workforce Center. Cost \$99 per month.
- **211**- Elaina Dariah stated you add your information to the 211 Hotline/Database. 24/7

Workgroups:

- **Employment** - Joy Sullivan gave an update about the RapidGate information in a pamphlet to be available by the next meeting. Spotlight Series and EEOC Guidelines update. Employment Retention was a big issue at the Reentry Collaboration Summit.
- **Faith Based and Community Initiatives** - Madonna Flores gave an update on the workgroup activities. She and other members from the committee attended the Norfolk Jail Ministry Banquet on 10/30/15 and interest cards were distributed to the attendees. There was a lot of response on Mentoring. The Resource Guide should be available by March 2016. Next meeting is 1/11/16 10a.m. room 303 @WDC. Committee has been active for 7 months.
- **Juvenile Reentry**- Madonna Flores stated they have approx. 20 people attend the last few meetings. One of the main issues they have identified is lack of parent engagement. They will start conducting focus groups in February 2016. The next meeting is 12/8/15 @ 9 a.m. room 208 @ WDC.

ODU Sociology Dept. is hosting a Career Fair at the Webb Center on 2/4/16.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 1/22/16 @ 9 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned @ 11 a.m.

Sheila London